

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
November 6, 2002

Pete Benjamin (Vita Products, Inc.) promoted and described Vita Planta, an organic product based on hydroponics, which restores health to trees and can help protect drought-stricken trees from attack by bark beetles. Positive results can be seen in as little as seven days. Baca's Trees, a company from Albuquerque, is the commercial vendor of Vita Planta for the state of New Mexico.

Diana Webb (Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship, LANL) is conducting a seminar on social costs of the Cerro Grande Fire at the University of Pacific.

Steve Mee (Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project Office, LANL) reports that 4900 acres of forests and woodlands at LANL have been thinned.

Joe Romero (Nuclear Materials Science, LANL) announced that the Cochiti Pueblo has not considered his request for sampling of tree mortality on Pueblo lands. However, Dixon Orchards has granted approval for conducting mortality surveys on their lands.

Rob Farris (Fire Protection Group, LANL) has initiated the evaluation of facilities for changes in risks to wildfire damage after thinning conducted by the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project.

Mike Thompson (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that thinning on County lands is being conducted behind the Fire Department Building on Diamond Drive and at the North Mesa picnic area. Thinning in Bayo Canyon will begin next week. Permits to collect firewood in these areas can be obtained by calling 662-8301.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has been conducting mortality surveys in piñon-juniper woodlands as part of the wildfire hazard assessments at Los Alamos. The methods were developed in coordination with other investigators in Arizona and New Mexico that are conducting similar work in their areas. At this time, seven plots have been sampled.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, November 20, at TA-21, Building 210 in the Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.